

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson*****A DHS Intelligence Enterprise:  
Still Just a Vision or Reality?***

May 12, 2010 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee hearing entitled “A DHS Intelligence Enterprise: Still Just a Vision or Reality?”:

“Welcome, Ms. Wagner. I understand that this is your first appearance before the Committee since your confirmation. As I am sure you have discovered, you have a particularly challenging position. As the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, you must continue to build that organization to, as you have said, “be the trusted leader in meeting our nation’s homeland security intelligence needs.”

Simultaneously, as the Chief Intelligence Officer, you must craft a strategic approach to support and leverage the unique intelligence capabilities of each of the Department’s components.

As you know, I&A was created six years ago, in part, to break down traditional stovepipes, set mission-based agendas, and develop an integrated Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise. As I said in September and, unfortunately, must say again, we are still not there.

Unfortunately, your I&A has still never established a specific and effective strategic plan that both describes and delivers results, measures those results, and helps course correct if or when those results are insufficient.

Without such a plan, I fear that I&A risks failing in its unique opportunity as an intelligence coordinator for state and local consumers, within DHS, or for the Intelligence Community.

Consider, if you will, the recent Times Square attack. We have all heard of the successful contributions made by CBP to capturing Faisal Shahzad, rightly, are to be congratulated. However, absent from Congressional briefings has been what, if anything I&A or DHS’s Intelligence Enterprise brought to the table.

Further, the recent designation of Rand Beers, Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate, as DHS’ lead for counterterrorism raises questions about where you fit into the Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise.

Simply put, Ms. Wagner, I&A is at a crossroads. It has the potential to become the premier provider of information to homeland security intelligence consumers but will only succeed if the organizational ambiguity that I identified is addressed, a strategic vision is in place, and the dedicated people who work for you can: demonstrate specific results and proactively embody the position -- both inside and outside of DHS -- of “the trusted leader in meeting our nation’s homeland security intelligence needs.”

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